

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4 through 9 and 12 by this amendment and newly add claims 19 through 21 by this amendment as follows:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of storing an initial use date of a printer, comprising:
2 determining whether the printer is being used for the first time; and
3 storing the initial use date in a storage of the printer when the printer is used for the first
4 time by transferring the initial use date from a ~~personal-computer~~ host to the printer, said
5 determining step and said storing step being executed when drivers for the printer are being
6 installed.

1 2. (Original) A method of informing an initial use date of a printer, comprising the steps
2 of:

3 (1) providing data stored in a storage to a host by the printer when a printer driver is
4 installed, the storage including a first area for storing information indicating whether the initial use
5 data was stored and a second area for recording the initial use date;

6 (2) determining whether the initial use date was stored referring to the data indicating the
7 presence or absence of the initial use date by the host;

8 (3) providing a current year/month/date to the printer by the host if the initial use date was
9 not stored;

10 (4) storing the current year/month/date received from the host as the initial use date in the

11 second area of the storage and information indicating that the initial use date was stored by the
12 printer; and

13 (5) outputting the initial use date from the storage by the printer upon receipt of a user
14 command.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step (3) comprises the steps of:
2 displaying a first message asking whether a year/month/date counted by an internal counter
3 is identical to the current year/month/date by the host if the initial use date was not stored;
4 providing the counted year/month/date as the current year/month/date to the printer by the
5 host upon receipt of a positive response from a user;
6 displaying a second message requesting the user to enter the current year/month/date by the
7 host upon receipt of a negative response from the user; and
8 providing a year/month/date received from the user as the current year/month/date to the
9 printer by the host upon receipt of the year/month/date from the user.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of transferring~~
2 data from said printer to ~~a computer~~ said host attached to said printer.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said initial use date is entered into
2 said ~~computer~~ host by a user.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said **computer host** counts the
2 date via an internal clock and registers the time and the date into memory of the printer **[[if]] when**
3 said time and date are correct.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A method **[[for]] of** initializing a printer attached to a **computer**
2 **host**, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

3 **~~electrically~~** connecting said printer to said **computer host**;

4 applying power to both said **computer host** and said printer;

5 installing a printer driver into said **computer host**;

6 sending data from a memory space in said printer to said **computer host**;

7 determining whether said printer has an initial date stored in said memory of said printer;

8 and

9 typing in an initial start date by a user into said **computer host** **[[if]] when** said initial date
10 is absent from said memory of said printer.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising ~~the step of~~ having the
2 **computer host** furnish said initial date of said printer **[[if]] when** a clock on said **computer host** is
3 accurate.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising ~~the step of~~ storing said
2 initial date of said printer in said memory in said printer.

1 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, said host being a personal computer
2 attached to but separate from the printer.

1 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein in step (2), the first area and
2 not the second area is consulted to determine whether the initial use date has previously been
3 stored, said first area being distinguished from the second area.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, said ~~computer~~ host being a personal
2 computer, said personal computer being distinguished from the printer.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, said memory space comprising a first
2 area and a second area separate from the first area, the initial date being stored in the second area
3 and an indicator being stored in the first area that indicates whether or not an initial date has been
4 stored in the second area, said determining step examining the contents of the first area and not
5 the second area.

1 Claim 14 (Canceled)

1 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, said typing step being conducted at
2 the personal computer and not at the printer.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising updating the first
2 area to indicate that the initial use date has been stored when the host supplies the printer with the
3 initial use date.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, the first area is updated when the
2 initial date is stored in the second area in the printer.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, the first and the second areas being
2 updated when the printer drivers are being installed.

1 19. (New) A method of storing an initial use date of a printer, comprising:
2 connecting said printer to a host;
3 installing a printer driver adapted to drive said printer;
4 determining whether said printer is being used for a first time;
5 transmitting a current year, month and date to said printer when said printer is being used
6 for the first time; and
7 storing the transmitted current year, month and date in a storage area in said printer.

1 20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising displaying whether a year, month
2 and date is being stored within said storage area in said printer.

- 1 21. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising outputting a year, month and date
2 stored within said storage area in said printer.